



**Minutes of Meeting held at
St Columba's Church on Tuesday 10th January 2017**

1.0 Welcome and Opening Prayer

Fr Alessandro opened the meeting by leading a prayer.

- 1.2 Fr Michael asked Joan Barham to take the chair in the absence through illness of Grant Kudsee and this was agreed.
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2.0 Attendance and Apologies

- 2.1 Present: Joan Barham (Chairing), Fr Mike, Fr Andy, Fr Ken, Fr Alessandro, Dcn John, Peter Kirk, Richard Kolka, Lewis Canning and Stephen Forster.
- 2.2 Apologies for absence were received from: Grant Kudsee, Mike Robinson, Brian Shelley and Charles Whitehead.
- 2.3 Lewis Canning from St Columba's was welcomed to his first meeting.
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3.0 Agenda

- 3.1 The draft agenda was accepted.
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4.0 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- 4.1 Minutes of the meeting held on the 8th November 2016 were approved as an accurate record.
- 4.2 Matters arising: the only one that was not already on the agenda was to note with regret that it had not been possible to issue a joint Christmas card with Mass times. The problem that had arisen is unlikely to recur and it was agreed that a card giving details of the services for Holy Week should be prepared. The clergy agreed to send to Joan the relevant information for their parish by the 14th February. The clergy would also look at Mass times for Holy Days and Ash Wednesday so that where possible clashes can be avoided.
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5. Updates on Actions from Previous Meeting

- 5.1 *Establishment of a post of Administrator for St Aidan's, St Columba's and Our Lady's*
Frs Alessandro and Andy will report further on this and the continuing discussions they are having at our July meeting. The effect of the new Mass times has left Fr Andy with a significantly reduced weekly collection, along with continuing difficulties in finding volunteers to help with every aspect of

parish life. This makes the possibility of Our Lady's currently paying for admin support unrealistic. The position at St Columba's is more optimistic and the subject of continuing discussions.

5.2 *Implementation of Compass Proposals*

The progress to date continues to be excellent and all concerned deserved to be congratulated. We agreed that Gerard be asked to draft a note setting out the need for more leaders so that this can be included in parish newsletters and websites. It was suggested that a short session for parents, explaining the need for the team of leaders, might prove useful in getting more helpers.

5.3 *Confirmation Candidates' Programme*

Two special Masses will be held on the 21st May at 2pm and 5pm. Isabel is liaising with Bishop Peter on the detail but it was agreed that the two services should offer the candidates the same experience and thus should not be significantly different. The high numbers this year should not arise in future when Year 9 pupils will be the primary age group across the Pastoral Area.

5.4 *Corpus Christi Procession*

We agreed that this will be held at St Aidan's and that the parish priests should settle the detail.

5.5 *CAFOD Affairs*

The CAFOD supporters day for the south of the diocese is to be held at St Joseph's on the 18th February. Ged Nolan will be meeting with supporters from the other three parishes to see how best the work of CAFOD can be promoted within the Pastoral Area.

5.6 *Co-ordinator for Marriage Preparation*

A replacement for Deacon John has yet to be identified; Deacon John will advise if one is found.

5.7 *Vocations*

We had a short discussion on what we might do to encourage vocations and indeed whether we are the right place to consider this. We agreed that the best place to promote this was within the parishes; Frs Andy and Alessandro will discuss with Deacon Michael Bates the possibility of arranging speakers at Masses on Good Shepherd Sunday, following which we could consider the outcome.

5.8 *The Micah Programme and the Sion Community*

We agreed that with the Big Picture programme just starting as well as all the changes facing in particular the three parishes preparing to come together, it was not the best time to consider instigating any work on these two worthwhile initiatives. We agreed to give them further consideration in one year's time.

5.9 *The Proposed Cathedral Centre*

Fr Mark is coming to St Joseph's on Sunday 12th March to give this project further promotion. We agreed that a second collection across the Pastoral Area on the same weekend would be a useful way of giving some support. Joan agreed to give the clergy details of Fr Mark's visit.

6.0 **Publication of Our Minutes**

We considered a request from St Columba's that our minutes be made available to anyone interested in seeing them. We agreed that this should be done with one proviso which is that if a meeting considers any item should be kept confidential it should be the subject of a separate confidential minute (if the item needs minuting at all).

7.0 **Parish and School News, Developments & Forthcoming Events**

St Columba's

- i. On the first Sunday of the month it is proposed to hold an Italian Mass at 11.30am that will be available to all within the Pastoral Area and adjoining districts. The first such Mass has already been held and attracted an attendance of some forty people. The possibility of also holding a Spanish Mass could be considered if there are sufficient numbers to support it.
- ii. Churches Together are looking for something simple that might appeal to teenagers. As a result on the second Saturday of the month at 7.30pm it is proposed to hold a Taizé ecumenical prayer service, again open to all and starting in February.

Our Lady's School

- i. The governors were so impressed by the report from the head, Mark Holdsworth, about the dedication and commitment of the teaching staff and assistants, that they organised a small event for them just before Christmas. It was much appreciated.

St Joseph's School

- i. The main news from St Joseph's School is that Jo Marsh has resigned as head teacher, to follow a different career path involving more direct teaching after Easter. Meanwhile the governors are recruiting a new head teacher.

St Joseph's

Advent

- i. RCIA had 3 adults formally enrol as Catechumens during Mass at the beginning of Advent.
- ii. Children's Liturgy Team ran an Advent Workshop on the First Sunday of Advent. About 80 children from Pre-School to Year 6 enjoyed lots of fun Christmas crafts, carol singing and a visit from Santa.
- iii. Our Youth Team and Confirmandi hosted a Senior Citizens Christmas Party for 70 guests at the beginning of December.
- iv. There was an Advent Service of Reconciliation.
- v. Fr Martin revived the Parish Christmas Lunch which hadn't been done in many, many years. 120 people came along and enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner.

- vi. Instead of our usual Carol Service we had a Christmas Concert in our Church in Denham. It was packed on the night and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the festive music and readings presented by Richard Cottle with singers from across the parish, joined by the Vicar and choir from St Mary's.
- vii. The Christmas London & Slough Run was very well supported and many homeless gratefully received not only food and warm clothing, but also Christmas gifts.

Christmas

- i. It was a very busy time in the run up to Christmas, we had 6 funerals and 1 wedding over the space of 9 days (which included the Fourth Sunday of Advent weekend).
- ii. All Christmas Masses were well attended. The 5pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve was full to capacity in both Church and Parish Centre/Hall.
- iii. Everyone was quiet and the office closed between Christmas and New Year.

Coming Up...

- i. Children from the Parish and St Joseph's School began their First Holy Communion preparation last Sunday with a special Mass for the Epiphany, each one giving baby Jesus a gift of love and joy symbolised by a shiny red heart which Fr Michael placed in the crib. Classes begin this week for both groups with 70 children enrolled.
- ii. The Big Picture bible course starts this coming Thursday, 12 January.
- iii. Confirmation sessions resume this coming Friday after the Christmas break.
- iv. Our first Baptismal Preparation Course of 2017 begins next Sunday.
- v. There will be a Retreat & Mass of Recommissioning for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers at the end of January.

St Aidan's

- i. *New Sunday Mass Times:* Settling in. Some new faces at the Saturday Vigil Mass.
- ii. *Advent:* Reconciliation Day Saturday 17th December with two priests didn't have great numbers.
- iii. *Christmas:* An over-full-house for the Family Vigil Mass and a full-house for the 'Midnight' Mass at 8.30pm and on Christmas Day. All immensely joyful.
- iv. *New Year:* Vigil 11-Midnight concluding with Benediction had about 20 attenders who quietly prayed-in 2017.
- v. *Parish Lunches:* Monthly lunches for those who live alone continue to be well supported.
- vi. *Baptism:* Another 3-part course began on 8 Jan for 3 families. They were 'welcomed' by the whole parish during the Epiphany Mass when all renewed their baptismal promises.
- vii. *First Reconciliation and Holy Communion:* 18 children are enrolled. The parents have had two meetings. The course begins on Saturday 14 January and there will be a formal induction during the Vigil Mass. First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday 4 February and First Holy Communion on Saturday 20 May.
- viii. *Confirmation:* Two St. Aidan's catechists continue bravely taking 40 young people from three parishes (St Aidan's, St Columba's, & Our Lady's) through their preparation with occasional help from Gerard Felix of St Columba's. This is not ideal but they are doing their best.

- ix. *Marriage*: 5 engaged couples (4 St Aidans, 1 St Columba's) have asked for marriage preparation. 2 have been linked up with married mentors who will take them through the Smart Loving/Engaged Course. The other 3 are waiting. There is a real need for more mentoring couples.
 - x. *Adult Formation*: It looks as though about 10 will join "The Big Picture" bible study course at St Joseph's.
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8.0 Any Other Business

Fr Mike asked to be advised if there are any intellectually challenged people who might be interested in joining a group to get together on a monthly basis for mutual support. He has had contact with one such teenager but it would take more to get a group up and running.

"*Faith and Light*" was founded in 1971 in Lourdes and is now in over 100 countries in the world. It was inspired by two parents with intellectually challenged children and takes inspiration from the L'Arche movement begun by Jean Vanier.

9.0 Fr Ken led the closing prayer. The meeting ended at 9.50pm

NB The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th March at St Aidan's.